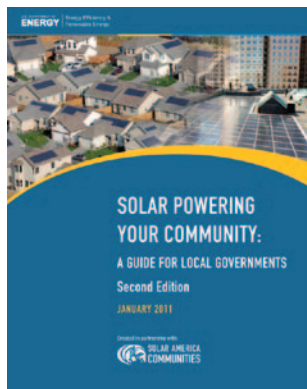




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SOLAR POWERING YOUR COMMUNITY: A GUIDE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Second edition



Cities and local communities across the country are recognizing that renewable energy sources such as solar energy can help meet increasing energy demand, boost local economic development, create sustainable jobs, and enhance energy reliability.

To take advantage of these benefits and successfully execute a solar program, local governments and community leaders need to understand what's involved. Valuable guidance is available in a complimentary publication to assist with planning for and implementing solar technology.

Practical Knowledge, Real-World Insights

Solar Powering Your Community: A Guide for Local Governments has been developed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as a comprehensive resource to assist local governments and stakeholders in designing and implementing a strategic local solar plan. The guide presents helpful information on a wide array of topics that are of particular interest to cities and local communities.

In the guide, examples and models are provided that have been field-tested in communities across the United States. Many of these examples are from the cities and counties involved in the DOE Solar America Cities partnerships. They are using innovative approaches to remove barriers to solar and encourage adoption of solar energy technologies at the local level, and readers can benefit from their experiences.

New topic areas in the second edition include:

- Hiring or designating a local solar coordinator
- Third-party residential financing
- Community solar financing
- Solar mapping tools
- Developing solar-ready building guidelines
- Hosting of wholesale PV systems
- Identifying optimal solar installation sites



Fresh Information

Solar Powering Your Community: A Guide for Local Governments, now in its second edition, has been thoroughly updated to include new market developments since 2009. The new edition also contains the most recent lessons learned and successes from the 25 Solar America Cities and other communities that have adopted solar energy.

This helpful resource can be used to stimulate ideas or as a framework for an all-inclusive solar plan for a community. Because there is no one path to solar market development, a range of policy and program options are given that can be tailored to a specific local solar infrastructure.

Featured topics in the guide represent many of the building blocks that have proved successful in creating local solar markets around the country:

- Getting Started: Assessing a Community's Policy Environment
- Organizing and Strategizing a Local Solar Effort
- Making Solar Affordable for Residents and Businesses
- Updating and Enforcing Local Rules and Regulations
- Improving Utility Policies and Processes
- Creating Jobs and Supporting Economic Development
- Educating and Empowering Potential Customers
- Leading by Example with Installations on Government Properties

Each topic area is supplemented with updated information on:

- The benefits of implementing the policy or program
- Tips and options for designing and implementing the policy or program
- Examples of experiences from communities that have successfully implemented the policy or program
- Lists of reports, references, and tools that offer more information, where applicable.

DOE welcomes your comments and suggestions about the guide at solarguide@ee.doe.gov.

Communities across the country are realizing the benefits of solar energy:

- Sustainable, clean energy production
- High-paying jobs and new economic opportunities
- Community-wide reduction of carbon footprint
- Power from secure, domestic energy
- Money savings on energy costs



A 3 kW PV rooftop installation in the Center City District of Philadelphia.

Credit: Mercury Solar Solutions/PX18063

Download the guide at:
WWW.SOLARAMERICACOMMUNITIES.ENERGY.GOV

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